Passport Officers' meeting that passports will be issued to the applicants within 30 days;

(b) whether it is also a fact there is acute shortage of passport books;

(c) what is the number of applications pending for issuing passport at Ahmedabad Regional Passport Office;

(d) what is the number of passport books available with the passport office at Ahmedabad today; and

(e) what steps Government are taking to issue the passport expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) We have impressed on the Passport Officers to issue passports in all the cases within 5 weeks of receipt of applications. They have been advised to strive to attain this objective by motivation of staff to maximise productivity.

(b) Adequate no. of passport booklets are now available with the passport offices.

(c) The no. of applications pending at various stages of processing as on 28-2-92 is 43181.

(d) No. of blank passport booklets available with the Passport Office Ahmedabad as on 28-2-92 is 9268.

(e) Passport procedures have been simplified to facilitate expeditious issue of passport service. These are given in the Statement (Please refer to the statement appended to the USQ 1593).

Human Rights Organisation Report on Terrorists Killings in Kashmir

1670. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Times of India dated 10th February, 1992 under the heading "Asia Watch Report—An attempt to legitimise terrorist killings in Kashmir";

(b) if so, what are the details of above mentioned US based human rights organisations report; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report documents the so-called human rights situation in Kashmir and highlights alleged human rights violations by the personnel of the security forces.

(c) While reaffirming its commitment to uphold human rights, Government regard the Asia Watch Report as one-sided, grossly exaggerated and riddled with inaccuracies Government notes that the report glosses over the massive human rights violations committed by terrorists in Kashmir who have infiltrated from across the border after having received training and arms in Pakistan.

Purchase of Uranium by Pakistan

1671. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to recent press reports that Pakistan are buying enriched uranium from Tadjikistan for its nuclear programme;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government; and

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the Government of Tadjikistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on our security and take all appropriate measures to safeguard it.

(c) Yes, Sir. Government have been informed by the Foreign Ministry of Tadjikistan that these reports had no basis.

आतंकवाद का मुकाबला करने के लिए इजराइल से सहायता

1672. **डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 17 फरवरी, 1992 के दैनिक "डैली टेलीग्राफ" में "इजराइल्स हैल्प लाइकली टू काउन्टर टेरोरिज्म" शीर्षक के अधीन प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार आतंकवाद का मुकाबला करने के लिए सुरक्षा संबंधी प्रौद्योगिकी के संबंध में इजराइल से सहायता लेने का विचार रखती है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री माधवसिंह सोलंकी) : (क) जी हां । सरकार ने उक्त समाचार को देखा है ।

(ख) फिलहाल ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन नहीं है ।

(ग) लागू नहीं होता ।

1673. (*Transferred to the 11th March*, 1992.)

Protection of Indian Fishermen

1674. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian fishermen were shot down by Sri Lankan, Navy during December, 1991 and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what are the instructions given to Indian Navy to protect our fishermen from the onslaught of Sri Lankan Navy?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) It was reported that on 30th December 1991, Sri Lankan Navy opened fire on boat No. P 74/MB close to the Sri Lankan coast in an area prohibited for Indian fishermen. It resulted in the death of one fisherman. Government lodged a protest with Sri Lanka Government who have, however, denied any such incident.

(b) Indian Navy is responsible for protecting our fishermen in Indian territorial waters. Most of the attacks by Sri Lankan Navy on our fishermen have taken place in Sri Lankan waters. We raised this issue with Sri Lanka Government during their Foreign Minister's visit to Delhi in January 1992. They have assured us that necessary steps have been taken to avoid, in future, the recurrence of incidents involving Sri Lanka Navy's action against our fishermen inadvertently crossing the International Maritime Boundary.

भारत और इस्राइल के बीच सहयोग के क्षेत्र

1675. **मौलाना अबैदुल्ला खान आजमी** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय भारत और इस्राइल के बीच सहयोग के कौन-कौन से क्षेत्र हैं; और

(ख) ऐसे अन्य क्षेत्रों का ब्यौरा क्या है जिनमें इस्राइल से सहयोग प्राप्त करने के प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं ।

विदेश मंत्री (श्री माधवसिंह सोलंकी) : (क) इजराइल के साथ पूर्ण राजनयिक संबंध स्थापित करने का निर्णय करने से पहले दोनों देशों के बीच केवल कुछ व्यापार होता था जो गैर-सरकारी सूत्रों के जरिए होता था ।